

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-11 RSC-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

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R 041405Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3771

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, IC

SUBJECT: ICELAND IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

REF: (A) STATE 16720

(B) GENEVA 6726

1. MISSION OFFICER INFORMED ICELAND PERREP BENEDIKTSSSEN OF PRELIMINARY US THINKING ON REMAINING ICELAND QRS, PER REFTEL (A), IF ICELAND FORCED DISINVOKE GATT ARTICLE XII COVER AS ANTICIPATED IN REFTEL (B). BENEDIKTSSSEN, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM REYKJAVIK, SAID ICELAND AUTHORITIES STRONGLY DISINCLINED SEEK SORT OF WAIVER WHICH WOULD REQUIRE PERIODIC RENEWAL FOR THOSE AGRICULTURAL QRS WHICH WILL REMAIN AFTER JANUARY 1, 1975.

2. BENEDIKTSSSEN SAID REYKJAVIK AWARE THAT SOME CPS HAVE MANAGED TO FIND WAY TO MAINTAIN AGRICULTURAL QRS WITHOUT HAVING TO SEEK PERIODIC APPROVAL. HE CITED SWISS QRS SANCTIONED BY TERMS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SWISS ACCESSION AND REFERRED TO "OTHERS" WHICH ALSO HAD INDEFINITE

WAIVERS DATING FROM ACCESSION (READ TO MEAN US). OF EVEN GREATER SIGNIFICANCE TO ICELAND, HE SAID, WAS SITUATION WHEREBY SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES ABLE TO MAINTAIN SEVERE QRS ON MANY OF THE SAME KINDS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AS ICELAND, PARTICULARLY ON FISH. (COMMENT: FINLAND HAS INVOKED ART. XII, BUT ACCORDING TO GATT SECRETARIAT, NORWAY, WHICH DISINVOKED ART. XII IN 1961, AND SWEDEN HAVE NO KNOW GATT JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR AGRICULTURAL QRS.)

3. ALL OF THIS, SAID BENEDIKTSEN, WAS IN ADDITION TO FACT THAT SUCH COUNTRIES AS NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICA HAVE RESIDUAL QRS LEFT OVER FROM OWN DISINVOCATION OF ART. XII, AND GIVEN POLITICAL REALITIES IN ICELAND (REFTEL B), THEY WOULD BE "CRAZY" SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO PERIODIC WAIVER RENEWAL EXAMINATION PROCEDURE WHEN OTHERS EITHER HAVE ONLY TO SUBMIT REPORTS ON THEIR OWN WAIVERS OR HAVE NO WAIVERS OR REPORTS AT ALL.

4. MISSION OFFICER ASSURED BENEDIKTSEN US HAD NO INTENTION OF ABANDONING EFFORTS TO SECURE GATT-REGULARIZATION OF RESIDUAL QRS SUCH AS THOSE MAINTAINED BY NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICA, BUT AS THIS REALLY PERIPHERAL TO LARGER QUESTION HE RAISED, SIMPLY PROMISED REPORT DISCUSSION TO WASHINGTON.DALE

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